

Forest and Woodland Management Action Plan

Definitions, Assumptions and Instructions for Completing Action Plan Tables

The following information is provided to assist states in completing the required Forest and Woodland Management Action Plan (Action Plan) and to ensure consistency and comparability between states. States should use the following definitions and assumptions unless otherwise noted in their plans.

The Forest and Woodland Management Action Plan consists of two parts: 1) a narrative description of the following:

- the status of forest and woodland management resources;
- current conditions of the forest and woodland resources;
- the current level of forest and woodland management activity;
- opportunities and rationale for increasing management activity;
- resources necessary to increase management activity, and;
- potential impediments to successfully increasing management activity.

2) completed tables that quantify these conditions and proposed resources and accomplishments.

Please **do not change the table formats or column or row headings, as the data will be compiled into one national summary**. If you wish to provide additional information, please do so by attaching separate documents. If you would like to further clarify the data provided, please footnote at the bottom of the table.

3) The narrative portion of the state's Action Plan should document additional definitions and assumptions used in developing the state action plan. It should also document who prepared, reviewed, and approved the Action Plan prior to submission to the Washington Office.

4) Think "outside the box". A tremendous amount of work needs to be done across all 13 states that contain BLM forest lands and woodlands, and it will take innovative thinking that is not constrained by past experiences or past funding and staffing levels. Document all assumptions that are not included below.

Please submit a completed Action Plan for your state, including narrative and completed Excel workbooks to the Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning **by COB January 3, 2003**.

I. Definitions - The following definitions should be used in preparing the Action Plan:

Forest Lands - Those lands with 10 percent or greater stocking (or the potential to in tree species which are typically used in commercially processed wood products (lumber, plywood, paper, etc.), such as ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, white spruce, white fir, grand

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fir, hemlock, and aspen. Stocking can be measure by either crown density, stem density, or basal area. Include land that formerly had such tree cover and that will be managed to be naturally or artificially regenerated with tree cover.

Woodland - Those lands with 5 percent or greater crown cover in tree species not typically used in commercially processed wood products, including such species as pinyon pine, juniper, white oak, live oak, and black spruce. Stocking can be measure by either crown density, stem density, or basal area. Include land that formerly had such tree cover and that will be managed to be naturally or artificially regenerated to tree cover.

Available Forest and Woodlands - Those forest and woodland acres where active forest management is not explicitly prohibited by law, regulation, policy, or land use plan decision, such as lands outside of Wilderness Areas, WSA's, Wild and Scenic River Corridors, and areas inventoried as containing fragile or unstable soils. Do not exclude areas that are economically or technologically infeasible to actively manage using conventional methods at this time.

Forest and Woodland Management Actions - Activities that inventory, modify, manipulate, and monitor forest or woodland vegetation or those activities which facilitate such management. Activities include, but are not limited to:

- Forest or woodland inventory, data management, modeling, growth simulation, or treatment monitoring;
- Precommercial and commercial tree or shrub thinning;
- Forest or woodland fuel load modification for the purpose of restoring native fire regimes or reducing the severity of fire to forest and woodland ecosystem components;
- Forest and woodland stand structure modification to restore native plant and wildlife habitats;
- Forest or woodland reforestation, including reintroduction of native plant species, as well as tree seedling protection, reestablishment of native plant communities, protection or growth release of planted seedlings, or the introduction of insect or disease resistant native species;
- Forest and woodland insect and disease control activities;
- Forest or woodland product sales;
- Forest or woodland road construction, maintenance, and decommissioning, and;
- Forest or woodland access procurement and cadastral survey.

Condition Class 1 - Forest lands and woodlands that contain native vegetation communities where plant composition and structure resembles the historic range of conditions. For the most part, fire regimes in this condition class are within historical ranges and insect or disease activities are considered to be at endemic levels. Thus, the risk of losing key ecosystem components, such as old forest structures, soil productivity, or sensitive species habitat from

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disturbances such as fire, insect, or disease in these lands is relatively low. Maintenance management such as prescribed fire, mechanical treatments, or preventing the invasion of non-native weeds is needed to prevent these lands from becoming degraded.

Condition Class 2 - Forest lands and woodlands where native vegetation have been moderately altered from the historic range of conditions. As a result, fire regimes have changed and epidemic insect and disease activity threaten these forests, with a moderate risk of losing key ecosystem components, as described above, has been identified in these lands. To restore their historical fire regimes, and control insect and disease activity, these lands may require some level of restoration through prescribed fire, mechanical or chemical treatments, and the subsequent reintroduction of native plants, or a combination of these activities.

Condition Class 3 - Forest lands and woodlands where native vegetation has been significantly altered from their historic range of conditions. Because fire regimes have been extensively altered, and forest composition and structure has been significantly altered from the historic condition, the risk of losing key ecosystem components, as described above, from fire or insect and disease activity is high. Consequently, these lands verge on the greatest risk of ecological collapse. Restoration of these lands may require multiple mechanical and/or chemical restoration treatments. In addition, a high priority need exists for the reintroduction of native species on these lands.

Forest Products - Wood products, biomass, or fiber that is generated from treating forest lands and woodlands and is measurable in thousands of board feet (MBF), cubic feet, or tons of green biomass.

Program Development Phase - Time period where additional funding is provided from the Washington Office, and when staffing, planning, and accomplishments begin ramping up toward full implementation.

Full Funding Phase - Time period when full funding is provided from the Washington Office, however, staffing, planning, and accomplishments continue to ramp up toward full implementation.

Full Implementation Phase - Time period when full funding is provided by the Washington Office, full staffing levels have been achieved at the state and field levels, and target accomplishment levels are reached.

II. Assumptions - The following assumptions should be used in developing the Action Plan unless otherwise noted in the plan:

1. Forest and woodland management activities will be implemented using the appropriate funding sources according to the benefitting subactivity concept. For the

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purposes of this plan development, assume that funding levels in FY 2003 are at PTA levels. For FY 2004 and beyond, base need on work required to restore forest and woodland resources within a reasonable time period. Note the time period used in this analysis.

2. Funding increases will be long-term and provide a stable base at all levels of the organization for managing forest lands and woodlands.
 3. A high degree of accountability will be required and exercised at the national and state office levels.
 4. State level indirect charges against existing and new funds should appropriately range between 20 and 30 percent.
 5. State level program management charges against existing and new funds should appropriately range between 10 and 20 percent.
 6. State level operational funding should include costs associated with land-use, activity, and project planning processes, treatment contract development and implementation, resource inventory, and activity monitoring costs.
 7. Forest and woodland management activities will strive to utilize forest and woodland fiber where physically and economically feasible, and authorized by land use plans.
 8. Forest product sale and procurement contracting authorities will allow for utilization of small diameter trees and biomass for energy.
3. Instructions for Completing Action Plan Tables

Table 1. -

- a. Use Condition Class Definitions as described above.
- b. In narrative, give source of forest land and woodland acres, condition class identification methods, and factors that reduced "forest land" and "woodland" acres to "available" acres (see definitions above). Additionally, please identify the inventory system or local database which was used to determine the total forest land and woodland acres (this part is only applicable if States use data other than the Forest Inventory and Analysis data provided by the Washington Office).

Table 2. -

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- a. See definitions of phases above.
- b. Workload measures descriptions and standards can be found at http://158.68.30.250/abc/beta/0802_cm_index.htm.
- c. Include only accomplishments to be funded primarily by subactivities 1030, 5900, and 9620. In narrative, describe accomplishments planned on forest lands and woodlands to be achieved using other subactivities, such as 2823, 2824, 1110, etc.
- d. In "Timber and Forest Product Volume Offered", show total volume of all forest products that are convertible to board foot measure, including timber, houselogs, posts, poles, fuelwood, etc. that result from forest management or forest restoration treatments. Do not include biomass that is identified in "Biomass Offered".
- e. In "Biomass Offered", show the green ton weight of materials to be offered for biomass utilization, such as bioenergy. If necessary, use five (5) tons/MBF conversion ratio. If forecasting biomass on an acre basis, unless local data is more applicable, estimate five (5) green tons per acre in woodlands and ten (10) green tons per acre in forest lands. If local data is used, please state this in the narrative.
- f. In narrative, describe the types of activities to be used to achieve proposed acre accomplishments, such as mechanical precommercial thinning, mechanical commercial thinning, prescribed fire, timber salvage, etc.

Table 3. -

- a. For positions partially funded using subactivities 1030, 5900, and 9620, show only FTE actually funded by these accounts. One FTE equals 12 workmonths. Show FTE as fraction to one decimal place (ex. 4.5). Table will automatically compute FTE costs using costs stated below.
- b. In "Current Forester and Forestry Technician Personnel", show only FTE associated with job Series 460 and 462 positions that are actually overseeing, planning, implementing, or monitoring forest or woodland management activities. Do not show Series 462 that work primarily in fire suppression.
- c. For FY 2003, show current on-board positions, or positions currently planned to be added during FY 2003 within existing base funding. For FY 2004 and beyond, assume that positions identified as "Additional Forester or Forestry Technician Positions" in previous years have been added to your staff, and therefore including them in the column titled "Current Forester and Forestry Technician Personnel" for that year.
- d. In "Additional Resource Support Positions", show positions, such as Wildlife

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Biologist, Cultural Resource Specialist, NEPA coordinator, etc., that will be primarily used to support inventory, planning, implementation, or monitoring of forest and woodland resources and activities.

e. Complete FTE costs for resource positions are \$75,000 annually for professional employees, \$55,000 annually for technicians, and administrative support FTE.

f. Operational costs include costs of project level work, such as NEPA document preparation, cultural or T&E Species clearances, on-the-ground vegetation manipulation, forest or woodland vegetation inventory, treatment monitoring, or purchasing equipment and supplies to be used directly on project preparation.

g. Program management costs should include workmonth costs of individuals responsible for overseeing forest and woodland management activities including State and District Office program leaders, supervisory forest and woodland managers, and line managers as appropriate.

h. Program support costs include costs typically charged to subactivity 0777, including items that are general purpose, non-program specific in nature, and are not funded from a specified program subactivity.

i. In narrative, describe the mix of subactivities where the State believes the funding is best provided under the benefitting subactivity concept.